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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

DECEMBER 23rd, 1976, ISSUE No. 49

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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Captain Ernie Schiller of the "Mijoy 747" wishing fellow fishermen good codfishing for the yule tide. The Long Island Fisherman wishes all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Photo courtesy of Kramm Studios, Connecticut.

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Capt. Frank Mundus

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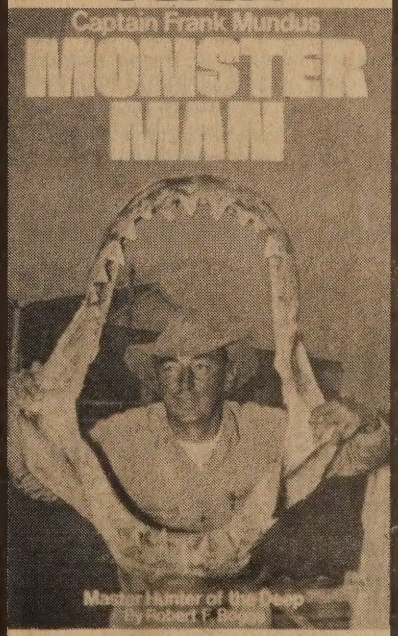

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ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

Question: Billy Lamia, Hauppauge
I live on the north shore, pretty close to Sunken Meadow State Park and Calahans. I would like to try and catch some blues off the surf there. What kind of bait and lures should I use? What kind of tackle? What time of day is the best? What tide? My father doesn't fish so it will be hard for me to get there late at night.

I myself have never fished the area you speak of nor do I have any well informed source to guide my answer to you. In all honesty, I cannot see why your area should be any different than others further west that I do know. The tactics and tackle used else-where should remedy your problem.

As far as bait is concerned, bunker and mackerel chunks seem to preempt other available baits and are easily obtainable in fresh or frozen condition. Unless you have deep water close to the beach you may have a problem reaching bluefish as they usually come close to the beach while chasing live bait which is not an every day occurance. The use of artificial lures would probably serve your purpose better than bait, due to the long cast factor. You can cast a lot further with a tin or jig than you can with a bottom rig loaded with bait. Bluefish will feed at any time with no set pattern, although tide changes along with dawn and dusk provide the lions share of action. Fishing tide situations such as changes, etc., does not necessarily mean day or night, as these fish could feed day or night or both as they are very unpredictable. Seeing as you will most likely have to cast as far as possible and do not include your casting talents I suggest the use of medium to heavy spinning tackle. Heavy poppers like the Danny or shiny finished jigs like the Hopkins or Ava are excellent casting lures and catch well.

Question: P.J. Perina, Flushing
I'm planning on building a rod for trolling wire line. I wanted to use Fuji Speed Guides (Aluminum Oxide). When I questioned the salesman he told me they would be OK for stainless wire but the monel would groove the guides after just two trips. I was disappointed to hear this since I had intended to use the Fuji guides instead of the carboloy which is delicate and will shatter. Question 1; will the monel wire groove a Fuji Speed Guide? #2; What are the advantages and disadvantages of stainless vs. monel wire? For trolling and jigging, bass and blues? Quest. #3; Which do you use and why?

If I'm going to go through the trouble of wrapping a rod I want to make sure I have chosen the right equipment for the job at hand. I hope you can answer my questions. I realize they may be a bit sticky since I was forced to use a brand name. On the other hand, I do feel that if a product doesn't live up to it's advertisements, the consumer is entitled to know.

In answer to question 1, I have called and spoken to some of the top rod builders on L.I. and they all inform me that the guides you mention are relatively new and that no solid opinions have been formed on them as of yet. None of the dealers I spoke to have heard about the problem of monel grooving of the guides any easier than stainless. I suggest that you write or call the N.Y. representative for these new guides and see what their opinion is on the grooving problem this salesman spoke of. If they guarantee the guides not to groove, you have no problem.

I have used carboloy for over 20 years and find it completely adequate, including rough charter use. Up until the new wonder guides have proven themselves in the field but not on the advertisers publicity sheet. I'll stick to the tried and true carboloy. Quest. #2, Monel wire is heavier by diameter than stainless and tends to sink a little better, knot strength is slightly better with stainless though monel creates less friction and is easier to reel in. Quest. #3; I prefer solid monel in .025 diameter, but with the price of monel getting astronomical, I may have to go to stainless on a strictly economical basis.

Question: Gary Valenti, Maspeth
Please send me rod blank and type for a rod to troll bunker spoon. Also where it can be purchased.

The rod blank that I use for all of my spoon trolling rods is a #0903 Lamiglass. I have found this blank to be satisfactory for both my long side rods and also my shorter middle rods. Where you cut the blank determines the action needed. I suggest that you look at a finished rod at one of the following locations before you cut your own blank. These well stocked tackle shops can furnish all the rod building components as well as the finished product:

Lon Wanser in Seaford; Merrick Marine in Bellmore; Sea Isle in Freeport; Ralph's in Oceanside; Mike's Tackle in Sheepshead Bay and Stella Maris in Sheepshead Bay.

Question: Capt. John Cordes, Freeport
Re: Question and answer "Chip" Guardia of Ozone Park and information furnished by Matt Ahern. Attention should be brought to readers and courses given to various wrecks were true, to correct to magnetic or compass course 12 degrees. Westerly error should be added to all courses.

In addition course of 195 is incorrect for Coal Wreck. Should be 155 degrees.

Thank you for your interest in this column. I assure you that the readers and myself appreciate your concern and corrections.

Question: Tom Sully, Riverhead
Could you please tell me what months are the best for surf fishing at Montauk? Also what lures to use and the most productive beaches.

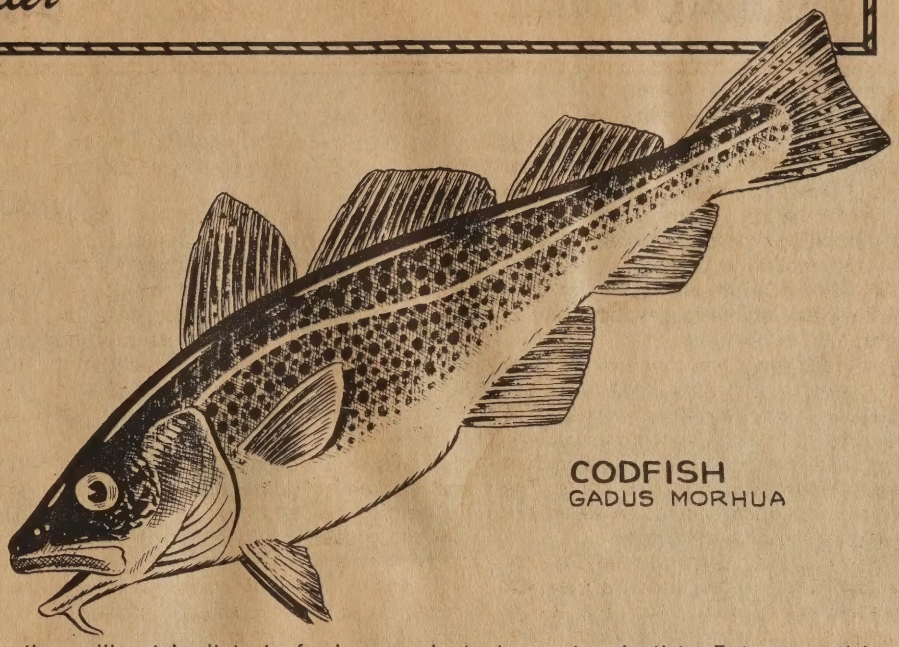
The last week of May thru the end of June seems to be the best part of the spring run with the end of September thru the end of November claiming the fall period. If I had to pick one area, it would run from the lighthouse to the North Bar. During the day I would stick with the Atom, Lupo or Creek Chub poppers or if you can fish light try the Red Fin type lures as they are excellent producers. The Hopkins, Ava and similar type lures also take their share of fish. For night fishing I would advise a good top water swimmer such as the Danny or Atom with the Gibbs darter and bottle plugs following a close third.

Question: Joel Beller, Long Beach
How often should wire line be replaced, or what determines when wire line should be replaced?

I rarely use my wire more than two seasons due to the rough use of charter fishing. The average sportfisherman should get two to three seasons of dependable use from his wire, as long as it is kept kink free and the wire twists are changed at least three times a season. Watch for dark spots as they show stress or stretching. If dark spots occur, you must either change the whole spool or insert a 75 lb. swivel at the weak spot.

Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

More About Cod



CODFISH
GADUS MORHUA

CODFISH ARE AN INTRIGUING pecies of fish, yet it is hard to figure out ie exact nature of their appeal. Cer-ainly many other fish fight harder and ost species are at least as abundant in ur waters.

BUT THE CODFISH is so highly rized by sportfishermen and commer-al fishermen. Why?

THEIR RANGE. Codfish can be aught all along our coast and in any eason. Captains work the deep wrecks nd ledges in the summer. Even when ie air temperature is in the 90's it will ill be in the 50's or colder several undred feet down. But in the winter odfish come closer to shore and the artyboat runs are short.

SIZE: CODFISH GROW to great roportions. The all-time record was aken in May of 1895 off the coast of lassachusetts and weighed 211 pounds!

EAGER EATERS: CODFISH HAVE nending appetites. They seem to be onstantly feeding and various reports dicate that everything from scissors to ounders are found within them. These ems include: oil cans, rings, rocks, otatoes, corn cobs, rubber dolls, cloth-g, boots and pens.

ABUNDANCE: THEY ARE plentiful, at least they were before the foreign eets went to work. Hopefully, the 00-mile limit will improve things for the ture.

THAT CODFISH HAVE always had a gnificant economic importance is wit-essed by the fact that in colonial days, is fish appeared on the face of the seal Massachusetts. It also appeared on a ank-note issued by Nova Scotia.

THE FURTHER NORTH a codfisher-an ventures, the larger will be the verage weight of the fish he captures. od on the Grand Banks average twenty ounds!

COD ARE FOUND in water as shallow s 5 to 10 feet and as deep as 1500 feet.

AT TIMES COD will move close to nore where surf fishermen can catch em. Once, in 1897, there was a abulous inshore run. The fish were so ose in some areas that row-boats were fficient to reach the grounds.

CODFISH SPAWN FROM autumn rough the spring months. They are ery prolific and each large female lays illions of eggs each season. The fish re thought to release the eggs and perm a little at a time while schooled.

COD PREFER ROCKY AND sandy ottoms but if the right bait is present they will not hesitate to feed on mud bottoms.

FAVORITE FOODS INCLUDE moll-usks; such as squid, clams, oysters, and snails, worms, crustaceans; such as lobsters, crabs and shrimp, bottom vegetation and any kind of small fish; such as sandeels, herrings, sardines and flounders.

DID YOU KNOW that at one time codfishermen preferred to use wooden reels, and that their use continued long after modern plastic reels were in vogue. Reason: These reels did not freeze up in cold weather.

COD ARE TOOTHLESS inspite of the fact that their diet includes some large items. But the mouth is tough and the inside of the jaw is rough to help them hold onto wiggling prey.

IF IT WERE NOT FOR codfish, some of the rarest deep-sea shells would not be known to scientists. But man antici-pates that the stomach of a cod may contain an intriguing variety of strange things, so many anglers make a point of checking it out!

THE CODFISH IS OFTEN thought of as intimately associated with the peoples of New England. Yet, we fine that cod is part of the national dish of Jamaica, B.W.I. and baccala is a traditional holiday dish for people of Italian descent. The cod has found it's way into many cultures because it is often dried and salted to be shipped all over the world.

ONE LAST ITEM FOR NOW. Codfish that are spawned in colder northern waters have fewer vertebrae. Cold temperature slows down the growth of a developing embryo. To save time, nature leaves out a bone or two. This is called Jordan's Rule.

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FRESHWATER FISHING with Angelo Peluso

Tackle Report

The angler entering into our watery wonderlands during the 1977 season can expect to do so with a well-equipped arsenal of fine tackle. Most manufacturers have continued to refine their existing product lines, with many managing to develop some new and unique pieces of equipment. I am certain that you will enjoy being introduced to some of the innovations that I personally find quite interesting.

UGLY STICKS—

The Shakespeare Company has introduced this line of fishing rods as being "the world's strongest, most sensitive tubular rods." The rods themselves are constructed by utilizing a unique blend of graphite and fiberglass, offering the better qualities of both components. Twelve models of Ugly Sticks are available and include the major categories of: bait casting, spin-casting, fly, spinning and big water models.

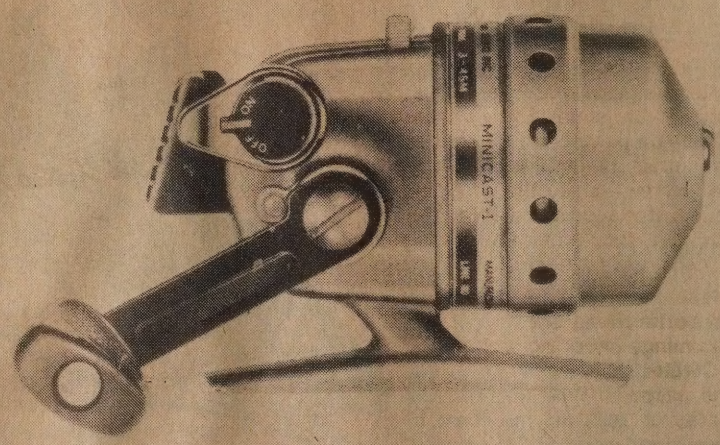
Shakespeare will include with each purchase made prior to July 31st, 1977, two warranties. One stipulates that "for 30 days from the date of purchase before July 31st, 1977, the Shakespeare Company will repair, replace or refund the purchase price of your Ugly Stick if you are not totally delighted with the way it feels, handles and fishes." The other states that, "for five years from date of purchase before July 31st 1977, the Shakespeare Company will repair or replace your Ugly Stick if it breaks, snaps or cracks while you are fishing." These warranties seem to indicate Shakespeare's confidence in their uniquely new product line. I am certain that the line is destined to be a major tackle success.

PRESIDENTIAL II-1980—

This is a free spool bait casting reel marketed by the Shakespeare Company with some very significant added extras. The reel design has incorporated a new: Centrifugal breaking system to eliminate backlashes; High speed 5:1 gear ratio for quick line control; Ultra sensitive drag system for maintaining control of pressure adjustments; and Dual ball bearings for smooth casting and retrieving. The reel combines functional elegance with classic good looks into its anodized gun metal black frame. Shakespeare's Presidential line also includes a full range of spinning reels.

DAIWA MINICAST SYSTEM—

Daiwa has developed one of the hottest "little" items to hit the tackle market in recent years. The rod and reel combination centers around a mini spin casting reel that weighs a mere 5 3/10 ounces and is a bit more than 3 inches long. Some of its more impressive features include a high speed gear ratio of 4.1:1; on/off anti-reverse; sensitive drag system; machined brass pinion gear; pin pick-up; easy grip handle and a chromed line guide. The Minicast is currently the smallest spincasting reel in production and comes with a pre-wound spool.



Smallest spin casting reel currently in production.

The Minicast reel has generated the creation of a line of perfectly balanced and matched mini rods: MC 438, a 4½ foot, one piece spinning rod; MC 38, a 4½ foot, two piece spin casting rod and a 5 foot, 5 piece travel rod. All rods feature a molded pistol grip, stainless steel guides and a black epoxy finish.

The mini-cast system is a true ultra light combination and will delight those who pursue panfish and small stream trout. Under the right conditions it can even handle a bass or pickerel. It has always been said that good things come in small packages, and the minicast proves the point.

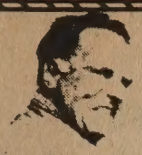
Daiwa Millionaire 5H casting reel—

After five years of intensive engineering, modification and field testing, the Daiwa Corporation has come up with what it feels is a baitcasting reel that will meet the expectations of the most discerning fishermen, the bass angler in particular. Some of the Millionaire's more outstanding features include: sealed stainless steel ball bearings; a comfortable power handle; jumbo star drag for ease of manipulation; a quick manual spool change feature; centrifugal anti-backlash control for smooth, snag free casts and a calibrated bearing brake system to adjust spool tension to lure weight. These features, combined with a lightning fast 5:1 gear ratio make for a reel that is well suited to the needs of the serious plastic worm fisherman and the crank or spinnerbait chucker.

Worth Heavy Duty Anchormate—

The Worth Company has introduced the big brother of their original Anchormate, a mechanical anchoring device. The new model is a heavy duty one which is capable of handling mushroom anchors up to 18 pounds. The device has a modified bow-mount that enables stowing the anchor in a horizontal position and a collar that secures the anchor when it is wound to its fullest extent. Anchormate II has a line capacity of 150 feet of 3/16 in braided rope which can be stored on a heavy duty reel fixture. A clock-wise turn of the handle retrieves the anchor, while a thumb-twist motion frees the spool. For further information and prices

(Continued on page 26.)



Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

A CHRISTMAS FISH SOUP; OYSTERS WILLIAMSBURG

Some of you may remember the recipes sent to me about a year ago by one of our readers named Helen Grell of Brooklyn, New York. I believe that one was for a lobster bisque. Well, once again Helen wants to share with us one of her favorites, a fish soup to be consumed on Christmas Eve. If one has the time on Christmas Eve to spend at the kitchen range when there are usually so many other things to do to get ready for the morrow—all to the good! But if this soup tastes good at Yuletide, there's no reason it shouldn't taste good any other time of the year. So—Happy Eating!

1 small bottle clam juice
fish trimmings including shrimp shells
1 quart water
salt and pepper
1 clove garlic
1 sliced onion
1 sliced carrot
1 stalk celery
1 large can stewed tomatoes
1 finely minced onion
1 tablespoon oil
1 teaspoon oregano
3 finely minced cloves of garlic
½ pound boneless fish fillets
½ pound shelled shrimp
2 dozen well scrubbed clams

Place all the first 8 ingredients into a pot and heat for about 20 minutes. Now, strain the broth and discard the remainder. Add the tomatoes, onion, oil, oregano, and garlic. Simmer about 15 minutes stirring occasionally. Then, add the fish, shrimp and clams (all cut into bite sized pieces) and simmer for another 20 minutes.

Ladled into soup bowls and eaten with crusty French or Italian bread followed by a salad and pastries for dessert, this should serve as good ballast for a hearty appetite. (Thank you, Helen Grell!)

Oysters Williamsburg

The very name "Williamsburg" brings up memories to this writer which might be of interest. It was the year of the "other great romance" 1937 (King Edward and the Duchess of Windsor) that my beautiful bride and myself journeyed to Williamsburg, Virginia for our honeymoon. We arrived about noon and had our lunch in the old Williamsburg Inn. There we learned that the New Williamsburg Inn was scheduled to open its doors for the first time that very evening. We hadn't made any reservations to stay any place in particular but we couldn't help thinking how nice it would be to be a guest in such a lovely hostelry. So, it immediately became apparent that there were no rooms available—for us; all had been reserved for others. But because the word "impossible" was not in my vocabulary, we set out to talk with the owner of the place. When we stated that we were newlyweds, the situation changed—for the better! We were given one of the loveliest rooms the Inn had to offer and that evening we partook the most delicious Smorgasbord (by courtesy of the Inn) that we had ever experienced. (Included on the menu were creamed, baby osyters that melted in your mouth!—which is why this "detour.")

In this also historic recipe and gently cooked in their own juices until the edges curl, the oysters are added to a subtle sauce, topped with crumbs, and baked until the flavors are blended. **Oysters Williamsburg** is easily prepared and is ideal for a special luncheon. It may also be served as the dinner entree or as part of a party buffet. Enjoy this oyster specialty soon; it's bound to be a favorite you'll add to your special recipe repertoire.

(Continued on page 25.)

Surf Side with Doc Muller

Step-by Step Instructions For Making A Surf Gaff

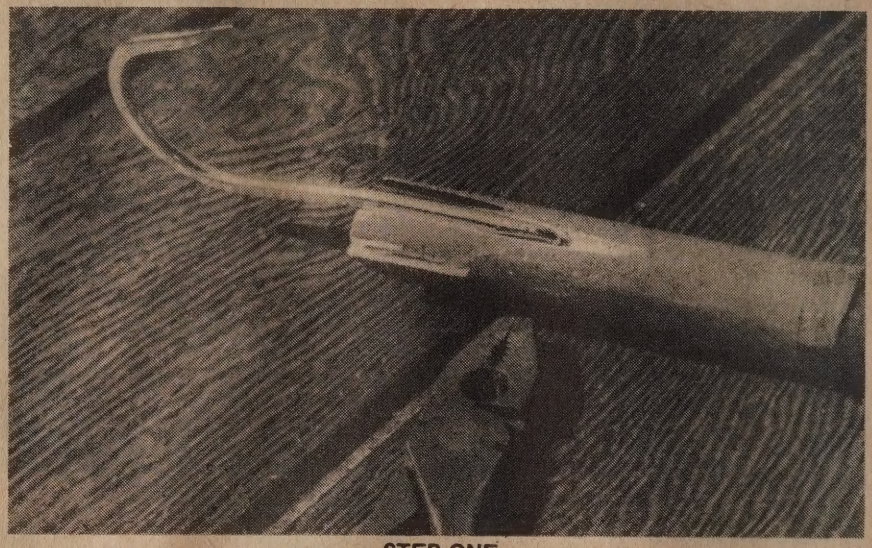
When I finished graduate school and once again began pounding the suds in search of Mr. Linesides, I gathered my gear and evaluated its condition after years of neglect. The hooks on virtually every plug were dull and rusted, the waders had deteriorated and ripe, and my gaff could no longer be used. That gaff was a mass-produced model that I had purchased and both the hook and the handle did not survive eight to ten years of idle exposure. I was determined to make my own gaff this time and see to it that it possessed all the characteristics that are essential if this instrument is to be effective.

I wanted a handle that was about twenty four inches long, a stainless steel hook, and a rugged construction that would keep the hook in place even if a big bass was thrashing on it.

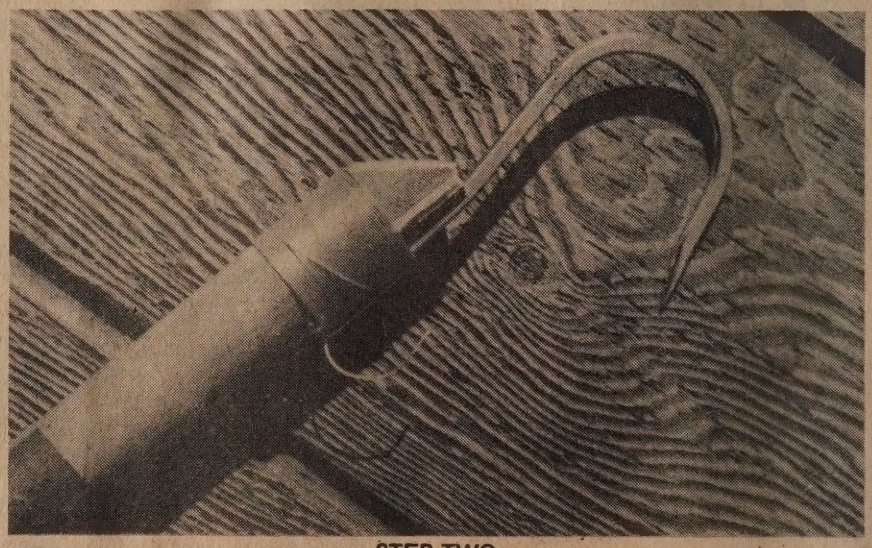
The first item of business on the agenda was a little shopping. First, I drove to a nearby tackle store and purchased a stainless steel hook. I selected one with a two inch gap: This would be large enough to work on big fish and small enough to be convenient. I also purchased a large neoprene grip.

The lumber yard was the next stop. There I purchased a two inch diameter hardwood dowel: Birch is good. I had to be careful that there were no defects in the piece I bought least it come apart at the crucial time.

A scavenger hunt was next. I needed some copper, stainless steel, or brass wire and a length of telephone cord. I found the stainless steel wire in a junk yard and the telephone cord in a friend's basement.



STEP ONE



STEP TWO

Step 1: Cut the dowel to the desired length. Measure the length of the shaft of the hook from the bottom to the place where the shaft begins to bend backwards. Mark this length on the end of the dowel. Groove the dowel with a wood rasp. Make the groove as deep as the thickness of the shaft of the hook.

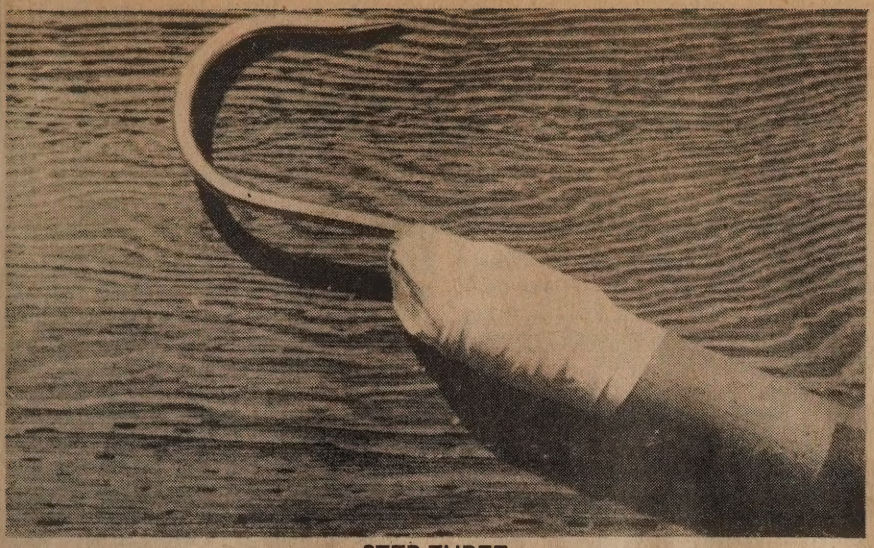
Step II: Place the shaft in the groove. At the end of the hook is a nipple. Press this against the wood in the groove and tap the hook's shaft with a hammer to drive the nipple into the wood. Wrap the shaft and dowel with the wire. Wrap it tightly and be sure that the loops of wire go on evenly and consecutively.

Step III: Tape over the wire tightly with a waterproof strong plastic tape. Tape again with black electricians tape (plastic). Cover with a layer of polyurethane paint to seal the tape and secure the ends.

Step IV: Drill a hole (¼ inch) in the bottom of the dowel. Force the end of the telephone cord through the hole. Boil the neoprene grip for about five minutes and then work the cable through the grip and force the neoprene over the dowel where the cable goes through. As the grip cools it will shrink around the dowel and lock the telephone cord in place. The neoprene grip will provide a non-slip handle.

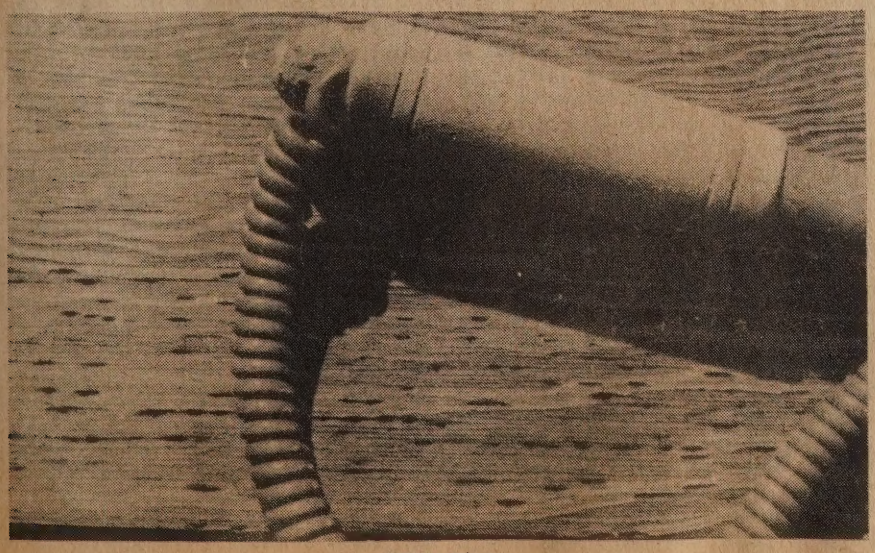
Step V: Secure a wire loop to your surfbelt. Either tie the telephone cord directly to this wire loop or afix a brass swivel snap to the cord and then you can snap the cord and gaff on and off your belt as circumstances dictate. I secured a gaff sheath which fits on the belt the same way that a hunting knife does. A gaff sheath is available from Sea-Gull Products. Friends use other systems, but I am more than delighted with the

(Continued on page 17.)



STEP THREE

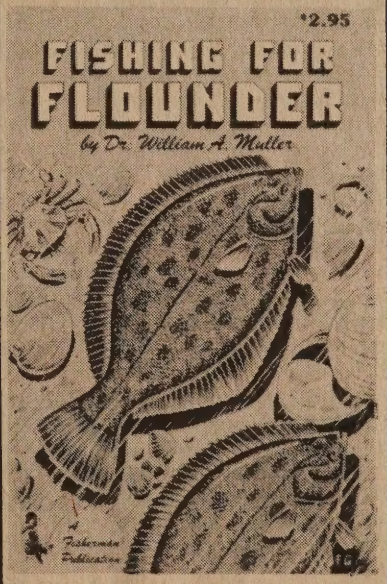
STEP FOUR



STEP FIVE

WANNA CATCH FLOUNDER?

Read FISHING FOR FLOUNDER



Here it is at last, hot off the presses! The first book EVER to be printed exclusively on techniques for catching the winter flounder. Separate chapters cover topics such as baits to use, rigging-up, scientific information, chumming techniques, how to locate flounder, fishing techniques—all in greater detail than ever before! Also an entire chapter on how to clean and cook this table favorite and an extremely detailed "Where-To-Go" section that provides fishing maps, seasons, hotspots, baits and rigs to use in each area! Ninety-six pages fully illustrated with photographs and artwork by The Fisherman's own Fred Guardineer. Send for your copy today!

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Sinker Bouncing RESOLUTIONS

with Matt Ahern

Now that the New Year is close at hand, and the fishing season is drawing rapidly to a temporary curtailment, what are you going to do with the next two and a half months before things get rolling again?

Well, if you're like most fishermen I know, you'll be moping around the house, chomping at the bit and slowly driving yourself up the proverbial wall. You'll probably find soon enough that spending your evenings at the idiot box through glazed, unattentive eyes, while you seek for something, anything, on which to better spend your time, isn't the answer. Being a fisherman, you'll discover soon enough that that 21 inch screen is not what the doctor ordered for gentlemen of your calibre. In fact, to a dedicated angler, such pastime leaves much to be desired. In plain language, it's boring as hell.

Well, here's something for you, as a fisherman can do. You can use this lull in fishing activity to your advantage. You can take it upon yourself to improve your fishing skill. Right now, at home, without even going near the water. So, with that in mind, why not make several New Year's resolutions to that effect?

It is said that New Year's resolutions are made to be broken, but there is one thing about making the resolutions listed below: I'll guarantee you will neither treat them lightly, nor break them while still newborn. In fact, you won't break them at all, and you'll be surprised to find how fast the winter will disappear. It's quite possible you won't even have enough time to undertake everything you'd like to do before the first spring flounder begin prowling the bays. But don't let that stop you. I've made a list of resolutions which I hope you will welcome with open arms. Pick out the ones that appeal to you and go to it.

You will notice as you go along that I haven't listed these resolutions in their order of importance. What may seem important to me, may not necessarily be of importance to you. It isn't necessary for me to take you by the hand, as it were, and say: here, you better pay attention to this one. You'll recognize the ones that have a special appeal to you. Give them your undivided attention master them and I know you'll catch more fish come spring. Guaranteed.

Resolution number one: Resolve that this winter you are going to learn how to fillet flounder. Regardless of what you may have been told, it isn't difficult. Dig out a back copy of LIF Issue #9—March 18th, 1976, and study it. If you don't have this one, send for a copy. Information on ordering back copies is on page three of this issue.

Unless you've been out flounder fishing recently, or know someone who has, your chances of having a flounder or two at hand are small. Your best bet is to visit your nearest fish store and pick out two or three of the largest flounder available. Large flounder are the easiest to practice on. When you're developed your skill, you'll be able to fillet all sizes. With but minor changes in technique, you'll be able to fillet next summer's fluke, too.

Resolution number two: Resolve to learn how to clean fish properly. Issue #50, December 25th, 1976 tells you how. You'll become expert in no time at all.

Resolution number three: Resolve to learn the importance of terminal tackle. When you do, you will discover there is more to this basic equipment than meets the eye. Take an interest in proper hook nomenclature, too. Every good fisherman I know is a hook fanatic. LIF Issue #12, April 8th, 1976 will set you on the right path.

Resolution number four: Resolve that you will never hesitate to experiment. Every fishing method in use today, be it commercial or sport, has been brought about by experimentation somewhere along the line. Don't concern yourself that your experiments may seem idiotic. They may work; and if they don't, who's to know? Only you and the fish, and the fish aren't talking. (They may snicker a bit, though.) I'm quite sure the fisherman who first experimented with dyed clam for flounder didn't give a rap about what others thought—and he really came up with something!

Resolution number five: Resolve that you are going to read all you can on the immediate subject of interest. Visit your public library and spend a quiet evening there. They have a multitude of informative books on all phases of the fishing game. You are sure to find exactly what you want. Take advantage of it.

If you wish, you can order a copy of Scott Simon's book: "Fishing For Fluke". You'll learn much. Interested in flounder and weakfish? Read Dr. William Muller's books on the subject. Hard to beat. Are you a salt water angler aiming to change his spots? If so, and if trout fishing is your game, Andy Gennaro has a fine in depth book written on this much sort after freshwater fish. It will more than pay you to invest a couple of bucks in these highly informative books. Check the ads in the LIF for information on ordering.

(Incidentally, the above is not a blurb to market these books. You may be certain though, that they do contain all the necessary information needed to catch these fish. I have listed them only because of a sincere desire to help **you** catch fish.)

Resolution number six: Resolve that this spring you are going to learn how to catch blackfish. Notice I didn't say flounder or cod, or some other bottom fish. Why? Well, let me say that once you've mastered old chisel-tooth, catching all other bottom feeders becomes duck soup. The LIF is chock full of articles on how to catch this wily character. Read them, study them, then pit your knowledge against this pugnacious bottom dweller when the opportunity presents itself. You'll soon see your catch of other fish increase.

Resolution number seven: I told you I wasn't going to point out a specific resolution, but this one is so important, I have to hedge a bit. I'm sorry. Resolve that you are going to learn how to snell hooks. That you are going to learn how to tie the Perfection Loop so necessary to a professional-looking snelling job. Also, that you are going to learn how to tie the Improved Clinch Knot, instead of the clumsy double-overhand knot. These are a must for the serious fisherman. Especially is this so if your bent is toward experimentation. You'll save a bundle of money, too. LIF Issue #37, September 26th, 1974 has the low-down on this.

Resolution number eight: Resolve to keep records of all your fishing trips. If you desire to become a master fisherman and it should be, this is an absolute requirement. You may be able to substitute a double-overhand knot in place of an Improved Clinch Knot and get away with it; you may be able to substitute a slice of skimmer in place of soft clam for flounder and catch fish; but you will never find any aid that will put fish in your bucket with such regularity as will the keeping of accurate fishing records. I don't want to go into an elaborate dissertation on why you should keep records. These, along with instructions on how to go about record keeping,

(Continued on page 23.)

THE FISHERMAN "IQ" TEST

(1) FISH CAN DETECT ALIEN ODORS ON JIGS, PLUGS, FLIES AND SPOONS.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) IF A FISH HOOKED ON LIGHT TACKLE DIVES UNDER THE BOAT, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

(3) WHAT OTHER USES CAN BE MADE OF TYPEWRITER ERASERS?

(4) THE CODFISH IS THE SYMBOLIC FISH OF WHICH STATE?

RHODE ISLAND ☐
MASSACHUSETTS ☐
CONNECTICUT ☐

(5) HOW OLD DO SHARKS LIVE?

15 YRS. ☐
25 YRS. ☐
30 YRS. ☐
40 YRS. ☐
50 YRS. ☐

(6) ICE FISHERMEN WILL RECOGNIZE THIS DEVICE AS AN---

(7) WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE POPULAR CARP BAITS?

CANNED CORN ☐
DOUGH ☐
WORMS ☐

1 - TRUE. KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN OF SUCH STUFF AS OIL, GAS, SUNTAN LOTION AND INSECT REPELLENT WHEN HANDLING ARTIFICIAL LURES. 2 - LOWER YOUR ROD TIP DEEP INTO THE WATER TO KEEP THE LINE FROM FOULING ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT AND TRY TO WORK YOUR ROD AROUND THE BOW OR STERN. 3 - A TYPEWRITER ERASER CAN CLEAN SMALL SPOTS OF RUST FROM REELS AND GUNS. IT IS ABRASIVE ENOUGH TO REMOVE RUST BUT NOT THE METAL FINISH. 4 - MASSACHUSETTS. 5 - SCIENTISTS ESTIMATE 25 - 40 YEARS. 6 - ICE CREEPER. STRAPPED TO SHOES, A PAIR OF THEM PROVIDE SAFE FOOTING ON SLIPPERY ICE. 7 - ALL THREE BAITS USED.

Better Fish Dinners

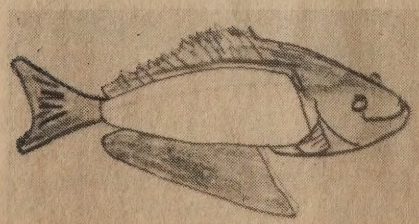
by Doc Grell

Do the fish that you catch, freeze, thaw-out and cook taste poorly? If not poorly do your stored fish, when eaten later often times "gag a maggot"? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" then you can probably improve upon your preparation of fish so that when you sit down to a fish dinner it will be a better one. If you want to improve upon the tastiness of your future fish meals then maybe you can learn a little from the suggestions for fish preparation which follow.

The various ways in which you can prepare fish.

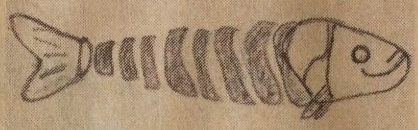
Your prize catches if not eaten immediately after your fishing expedition can be prepared in a variety of ways or cuts as shown in the following diagrams. I have listed the variety of ways in the order which I feel yields the most edible portions as well as being most tasty. Of course, this order might change depending upon how you enjoy your fish. I have eaten fish prepared in a myriad of ways and more than once have pulled fish bones out of my teeth or thought that the small bone recently swallowed would cause me to bleed to death internally within a couple of hours. Recently, after sloppy fish preparation I prepared to "Meet my Maker" after swallowing a fairly large weakfish bone from a thawed out steak.

The following methods for preparing fish therefore are based upon a format which takes you from preparing fish with no bones to preparing fish that will have some bones in them. If you freeze with bones remember that freezing does not eliminate the bones. The bones will still be there when you thaw out, cook and eat. SO BEWARE. Don't be "done in" by the fish that you caught several weeks before.

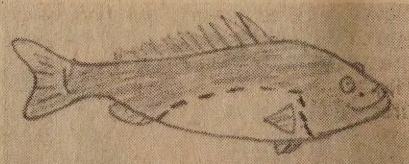


FILLETS: are the sides of the fish, cut lengthwise away from the backbone. Edible portion is 100%.

PAN DRESSED OR DRESSED FISH: are the whole fish with head, fins, tail, scales and guts or entrails removed. See Diagram #2. Edible portion of fish is about 70%.



STEAKS: are the cross section slices taken from large dressed fish. See Diagram #3. Edible portion of fish caught using this method is about 85%.



DRAWN FISH: are whole fish frozen with their guts or entrails removed. See Diagram #4. Edible portion of fish caught employing this method is about 50%.

WHOLE FISH: as they have come from the water are frozen. Edible portion of fish caught is about 40%.

Cleaning and dressing your fish.

1. We will assume that you have caught your fish and they have been placed on ice to the time that you are ready to clean and dress them at your dock or at home. The smart fisherman always places his freshly caught fish on ice if he is not going to clean them on the spot. Did you ever eat a bluefish that has been lying around in the sun from early morning 'till late afternoon on a hot summer day with the fish being cleaned in late afternoon? Did you smell the flesh of the fish? Everyone should be aware of the simple fact that all fish have bacteria on their skin which multiplies rapidly on the fish when he has died. If you are like most of us your cleaning and dressing will take place at dockside. Most wives do not appreciate your dragging dead fish into their kitchen for blood and guts, cutting and cleaning sessions or your placing of the entrails in the garbage cans for garbage pick-up, especially if the garbage is not picked up the next day. More than once, I have found my codfish entrails on my neighbor's lawn and the neighborhood cats enjoying a fishburger banquet on the street. The smells are something else?????

2. Wash your fish off and remove the scales of the fish by scraping the fish gently from tail to tail with the dull edge of your knife.

3. Remove the guts (entrails) of the fish after cutting the entire length of the belly from the vent (rear end opening) to the head. Remove the head by cutting above the collarbone.

4. Break the backbone with head attached over the edge of your cutting board.

5. Remove the large back fin (dorsal fin) by cutting the fish along each side of the back fin and pull the fin out of the fish. Never trim the fins of the fish off with your fillet knife or with shears because the bones at the base of the fin will be left in the fish for a future attack on your digestive system when you eat him.

6. Thoroughly wash the fish in cold running water. The fish is now dressed or pan dressed.

7. Large dressed fish may now be cut crosswise into steaks for freezing if you so desire. I recommend that you cut steaks between ¾ inch to 1 inch thick.

8. If you desire to fillet your fish, make

sure that your knife is extremely sharp. This fact cannot be over emphasized. Cut down the back of your fish from the tail to the head. Then cut down to the backbone just above the collarbone. See picture. Turn your knife flat and cut the flesh along the backbone to the tail allowing your knife to run over the rib bones. Lift off the entire side of the fish in one piece freezing the fillet from the carcass at the tail. Turn the fish over and cut another fillet from the other side.

9. If you desire to skin the fillets lay a fillet flat on the cutting board, skin side down, hold the tail end with your fingers and cut the flesh away from the skin by running the knife forward while holding the free end of the skin firmly between your fingers. You have a complete fillet at this stage. Remember that the edible portion of fish that are fillets is 100 percent and no bones.

10. After you have prepared your fish for freezing it is a good and wise practice to give your prepared fillets and steaks a quick 30 second to 1 minute dip in a 5% salt solution before wrapping and freezing. A 5% salt solution is easily made by mixing two thirds of a cup of salt in 1 gallon of water. This little extra bit of food chemistry is worth every second in future tastes of your fish.

Wrapping, Freezing and Storing.

Fish to be frozen should be placed in moisture-vapor-resistant coverings so as to make packages of fish airtight as well as preventing drying that can take place. It is the drying out which can take place in your freezer from poor wrapping that makes thawed out fish taste undesirable. Individual fish steaks and fillets should have two layers of waxed paper placed between them so that individual frozen pieces can be separated easily. When you have accomplished the preceeding you are now ready to wrap your fish in freezer paper. Moisture-vapor-resistant paper as well as freezer paper can be purchased from any reliable grocery store. When wrapping your fish make sure that the moisture proof paper is pulled tight to drive out the air. Make your packages smooth so that they pack together snugly. Label your packages so that you know what is in them and the date you froze them. There is nothing more frustrating than looking forward to a striped bass dinner only to find that your wife has prepared baked mackerel from a nonlabeled package of frozen fish that has been in the freezer for several months.

Putting your fish in the freezer.

Packages of fish placed in the freezer should be spread out so that they freeze rapidly. Don't pile them on top of each other. Turn freezer control to the coldest position possible so that the fish will freeze promptly. You can turn down the freezer to normal a day later when fish have been frozen. Frost free freezers have a built in fan for circulation of air. If your freezer does not have this feature it isn't a bad idea to purchase a small electric fan which you can place in your freezer so as to keep air moving over the packages until they are reduced to storage temperatures. When storage temperature is reached which should be O degrees Fahrenheit or lower you can then remove the fan. This entire procedure should not take more than 24 hours. The results in freezing and future eating are well worth the extra effort.

Recommended storage time for home frozen fish held at O degrees Fahrenheit is in the 6 to 9 month range with 9 months the safe maximum. If you haven't eaten your fish after 9 months you probably will never eat them. Taste diminishes rapidly as you approximate this latter period of storage. A standing rule in our household is eat fish as close to the time the catch was made as possible, especially with regards to oily fish such as mackerel and dark flesh colored fish like bluefish. Fish whose flesh is white in color such as codfish and striped bass can be eaten after considerable storage time...up to 9 months. Remember that there is a certain degree of bacterial decay taking place in all frozen fish.

Thawing fish out for cooking.

Most frozen fish may be cooked either with or without previous thawing. Frozen fish steaks and fillets may be cooked as if they were in the unfrozen form if additional cooking time is allowed. When fish are to be breaded and fried or stuffed it is more convenient to thaw them out first to make handling easier. Frozen fish should be thawed out in your refrigerator in their original wrappings. For best quality and taste cook your thawed fish immediately. Never refreeze thawed out fish which you cannot eat. The bacterial increase is great.

Highly recommended freezing procedures.

1. Do not constantly raise and lower storage temperatures in your freezer for the simple reason that this procedure causes fish to lose quality and the food value as well as taste decreases quite rapidly.

2. What you place in your freezer should be very clean. Remember that freezing fish does not sterilize fish and make it bacteria free. All that extreme cold does is to allow the changes that affect quality and reduces spoilage.

3. All fish to be frozen should be chilled within 24 hours. It is the wise fisherman who after catching his stripers bluefish, flounders, fluke and weakfish places them on ice immediately. There are countless simple methods for making big ice cubes at home...placing 2 gallon buckets with water in your deep freeze, using two gallon milk containers (cardboard) frozen with water, etc. The important factor here is that you don't catch bluefish or weakfish at 8 A.M. and allow them to ferment in the sun all day in large sun drenched barrels or bags and then late in the afternoon you clean and dress them. As said before there is bacteria on and in all fish with the bacterial decay rate rather rapid in certain species. The smells emanating from certain species which are allowed to go this route, fermenting in the sun, should tell you something??? If this method of storage is yours, it is a bad one. At any rate let your nose be your guide here.

4. When wrapping your fish package them in quantities to be cooked at one time. If you are a ½ lb. fillet eater what do you do with a cooked 3 pounds of fillet unless you have a monstrous sized pet? Be conservative in your eating habits and don't waste fish. Remember that you went to considerable expense and effort to catch them...a factor often forgotten at the dinner table.

5. Protect the fish which you freeze by employing the recommended storage materials. Proper packaging of fish prevents drying out and prevents air from entering the closed package causing oxidation. Don't just throw your fish into the freezer in a loosely wrapped bag.

6. Label each package with a notation to the kind of fish enclosed and the date of the catch so that you will be eating your longer stored fish first.

7. Limit the amount of frozen fish at one time in your home freezer to approximately 2 pounds per cubic foot of total storage space. Place unfrozen packages of fish against refrigerated surfaces when possible. Arrange your packages of frozen fish in such a way that they do not touch any packages of frozen food already stored in the freezer. If necessary use a board or heavy cardboard between the frozen and unfrozen packages to prevent them from coming in contact with each other.

8. Freeze and store at O degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

9. Limit your storage time to no longer than 9 months. The sooner you eat them the better the taste.

10. Cook thawed fish promptly and do not refreeze fish that have been thawed out unless you have a self destruct tendency.

Happy fishing and better fish dinners.

THE ONE(S) THAT GOT AWAY

by Walter Beattie

You cast toward the spot where you last saw a break. The bass swallows your plug and heads out with the drag singing. You lean back on the rod bending it in a loop just like in the movies. (Fig. 1) Suddenly without a sound the line parts, leaving you with a tattered remnant and the fish with your three dollar plug in its jaw. The fish didn't get away. You lost it!

Let's try it again now, but this time keep the rod down while the fish is taking drag. Point it toward the fish keeping the rod only slightly up to maintain tension on the line. (Fig. 2) The line will go out freely with less friction on the guides now, which is why you lost the fish. Notched guides, frayed line and breakage away from the plug end are your clues to excessive guide friction.

FIG 1

The fish is still taking line, but is headed around the end of a rock jetty. You have got to tighten the drag to turn him around. You reach down and adjust the drag screw tighter. The line becomes as taut as a violin string, followed by a "crack" that sounds like a rifle shot, as yet another fish wins a costly freedom. You lost him again! Some drag adjustments are not as sensitive as others and take several turns to lock the line, but why take a chance? If you set the drag properly to begin with, it is extremely risky to change it once the fish is on.

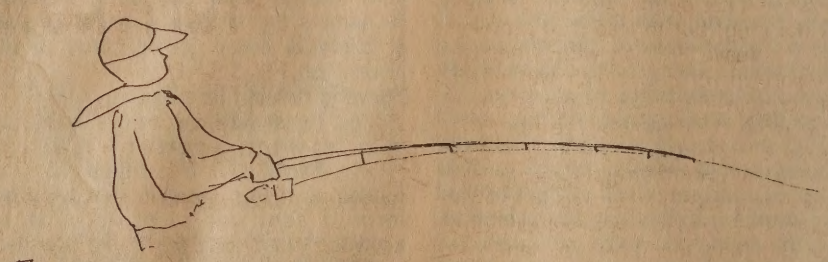


FIG 2

What can you do in a case like this? You can try making that guide friction work for you by leaning back on the rod. The added friction is just like increasing the drag. It is risky but you are in trouble. The alternative is to finger the spool (Fig. 3) with forefinger or thumb, combined with leaning back on the rod. Press until you stop his run.

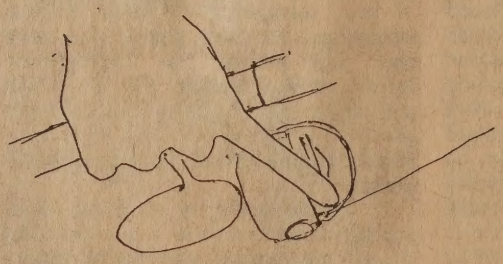


FIG 3

You have turned him now and he is headed away from the jetty in a wide arc. Suddenly he breaks water. You lean back on the rod as he jumps. At the top of his leap the bass snaps its head. The thirty inches of line exposed is held down on one end by water friction, while the fish in snapping its head on the other end has put this short length into superstress. You may lose the fish no matter what you do, but since you have hauled back on the rod, increasing the tension on the line, you have practically guaranteed another lost fish.

The instinct to haul back on the rod has to be overcome the moment the fish jumps. Doing nothing may suffice; giving some slack is best.

The fish is hauling back and forth now, taking drag intermittently. You can feel him tiring and you begin taking back some of the line. If your drag is clean and will not lock up on some dirt or sand particle, if your guides are not grooved with razor sharp edges, if you have checked your line before you began to make sure it was not nicked from casting, if you made a proper knot at the swivel or plug connection, and if you don't start horsing the fish, you might land it yet.

Your swelling confidence and anticipation is shattered as the line suddenly goes slack. What happened? The unexpected, which is what you have to beware of. In this case, the fish has simply decided to swim toward you. If you don't realize it quick enough, he will pick up enough slack to spit the plug out, an incredible skill blues and bass possess. Slack should never be given on a jump because of this skill. If you have the rod low, you can easily take up the slack by lifting the tip high and reeling in.

In swimming toward you, the fish has practically landed himself, but he has plenty of strength left and turns to head out again. You are impatient now and begrudge him the line. You haul back on the rod and are shocked to see your plug come flying out of the water toward you.

Lost him again. What you did not realize is the fish has been working to disgorge that hook from the beginning, and all it needed was a little excess pressure to break it free. You were impatient, and that will cost you every time.

What you should have done was to assume from the outset that your fish was barely hooked, even if his acrobatics suggest otherwise. He may in fact be barely hooked or may bend the hook straight. You may lose him no matter how careful you are, so just give him line when he is taking it, and take line when he lets you. Follow that rule and you will lose fewer fish.

To bring him toward you, use the rod exclusively, gradually lifting it without reeling. Reel in quickly as you drop the rod tip forward, thus avoiding guide friction and overtaxing your reel. Repeat this "pumping" action as necessary.

You could probably avoid lost fish in the situations described by using heavier leaders or tackle, but to me, fishing for bass is sport and that is synonmous with light tackle. I do not mind losing a fish when it has outmatched my skill and spit the plug, but to lose it to a broken line is to leave the fish with a hunk of hardware in its jaw, which will effectively cripple it for some time to come. Both fish and fishermen lose from that encounter. The bass deserves better than that. It deserves all the respect you show in maintaining your tackle to avoid broken lines and in the development of your skill and judgement to land him clean or lose him the same way.

Actually landing the fish is considered by some to be the time when most fish are lost. That has not been my experience, perhaps because I thoroughly reconnoiter an area before I begin fishing. I avoid jetties where the fish cannot be walked back to the beach, and check inlet currents or surf wave action, in particular the backflow down the beach from a wave. I try to pre-plan what I will do if I get a fish on, and how I might land it. If necessary, I will work out a gaffing plan with a partner beforehand when the wave backflow indicates the need to go out after the fish. Just bringing the bass in on the crest of an incoming wave is the safest, surest and easiest way to get him high and dry.

Landing a fish while standing hip deep in water requires some practice, but again gaffing is a last resort. I usually bring the fish to about six feet from the tip and reach for the line with my hand using it as a guide to lightly run my hand down to the plug. Grasping the plug and holding the fish's head slightly above water, slip the rod under your arm, and place the fingers of the rod hand in the fish's jaw or gills. Since I am more concerned about avoiding being hooked by the extra hooks on the plug, I usually aim for the gills. Don't lift the fish out of the water until you have him by the gills, as he will shake off the hook.

A light, if you are night fishing, is essential, as is an easily accessible stringer. A gaff, if preferred, should be holstered, to be drawn Western style, with an extendable telephone type wire attached to the handle to avoid loss.

Now before you cast again, just reach out and run your thumb and finger lightly up and down the thirty inches of line above the plug, to make sure the gill cover of the fish has not knicked the line...and better luck next time.

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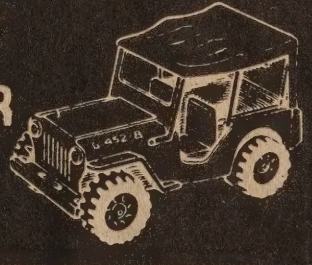

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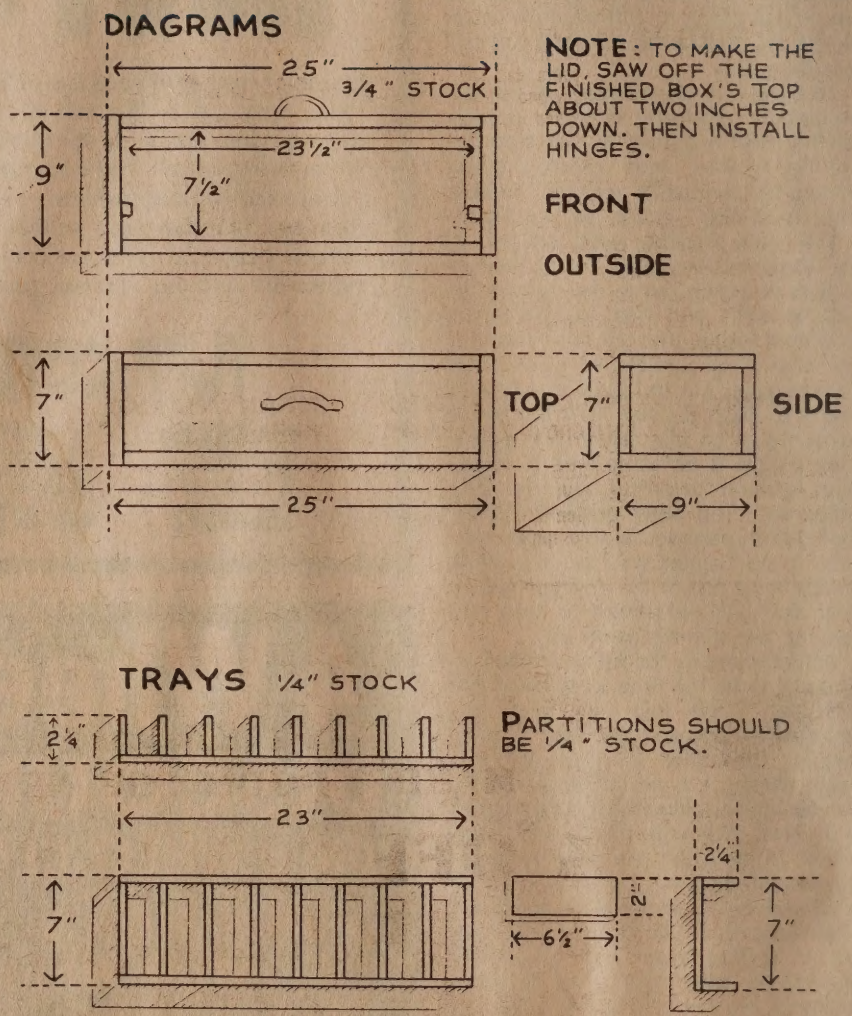
Build Your Own Tackle Box

by P. D. Ogrodnik

At first glance, such an idea might seem to be the busy-body work of a crazed tackle tinkerer, what with the hundreds of tacklebox designs and makes. But what if on your buggy or boat you have a spot perfect for a tacklebox but can't find a commercial model to fit there, Or what if you fish with big lures and reels and need a box with big compartments, or maybe even you are sick of the ease at which some commercial boxes can be broken. Thus disgusted with commercial models and wanting a box with big trays to hold my large surf lures, I set out to make my own box. Before I get into the method of making your own tacklebox, I would like to recommend the book **Tackle Craft** which was written by C. Boyd Pfeiffer. This book has an excellent chapter on tacklebox making and is especially good for making drawers with removeable partitions.

There are several ways of going about making your own tacklebox. The first and probably the most often used way is in the home workshop. A passable tacklebox can be made with just hand tools, but a far better one is made with power tools. This is because you can make stronger joints faster and much easier. The best place for such a job is a high school or vocational school workshop. You can either have you son make it for you as a gift, or just take the plans to the vocational school workshop and they will probably make it for you for just the price of the wood. Now that you figured out where you intend to make your box, lets get to work.

First study the diagrams with this article. They will be a far bigger help than any written words. I gave the measurements that I used, but you can use any size to fit your needs. When you have decided on your measurements, pick a wood such as pine or even better marine plywood. Carefully lay out your pieces on the stock, and then rip saw it to the proper width. Once this is done, cut the pieces to the proper length and sand them. If you have access to a table saw, and are familiar with the techniques of jointing, then bevel join the top and bottom and miter joint the ends. If not, then just join the pieces together with both glue and nails. Do this for either type of construction, because it offers a stronger hold. Once assembled according to the diagram, sand the outside a little.



Once the outside of your box is made, you are ready to make your trays. You can use removeable partitions, but that is a little more complicated than necessary. To decide the type of partition arrangement and size to use, go strictly by the size lures and rigs that you use in your day to day fishing. Assemble it according to the method you used for the outside of the box, except be very careful when you nail the wood for the trays. This wood should be ¼ inch thick, and the best material is planed down pine. If this is not available, use either plywood or some other very thin wood. Once you are sure of the fit between tray and box, give both several coats of marine varnish. You can make a stop to hold the trays off the bottom, or just leave them there as I do, with room at the top for reels. Once this is done just add the necessary hardware such as a big handle, a latch, and a strong set of hinges.

Thus you now have a tacklebox that suits you needs perfectly, while it is strong and rather inexpensive. It also makes a fun project for the off season.

The Long Island FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

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There was once again no winner this week for the contest. Next week's winner shall receive $30 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

689-XHO

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

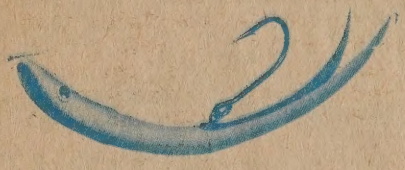
MAKING A SURF GAFF

(Continued from page 8.)

sheath. The gaff pops out easily with the flick of your wrist, yet it stays in place when walking or sitting. The sheath holds the gaff point secure so that it cannot puncture your waders.

This type of gaff serves my needs. I like a two foot handle because it is short enough so that it doesn't get in your way, yet it is long enough so that your reach is significantly improved. I use a 13 foot telephone cord. I prefer the longest cord because there are times when your gaff must be used on your own fish but not by you. Let me explain. Your gaff must be attached to you. If it is not you will surely lose it. However, if it is, how can a buddy or a stranger for that matter use it on a fish that may be several feet away; either down the rocks or holding stubbornly in the wash. Even though every good surfcaster should carry his own gaff they don't always.

Be sure to sharpen the point of the gaff. They are sharpened at the factory.



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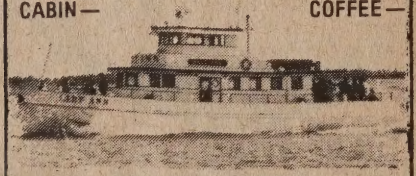

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported that the codfishing has picked up considerably and can now be considered to be very good. On Thursday, 20 men boated 170 cod. Joe O'Connor was high hook with a catch of 13 fish consisting of 8 cod and 5 big pollack. The secret to Joe's success is conch for bait. The boat didn't sail on Friday due to the wind, but Saturday's fishing was good. Eddie Rennar took 5 cod, including a cow of 52 and ¾ pounds on 20 lb. test Ande line. On Sunday Joe Peragine of Forrest Hills took a 49 and ¾ pound cod. Fishing has been best southeast of Block Island in 105 to 110 feet of water and anglers are averaging 4 to 5 cod each. Very few blackfish are left but there are plenty of mackerel, whiting and ling mixed in the catch.

Capt Brad Glas of the **Helen II** said that he sailed on Saturday in the very high winds that made for rough fishing, which was spotty with short flurries of action. One cod over 30 pounds and 3 over 20 pounds were taken in Saturday's catch at the Cartwright Grounds which is now producing just as good as the Block Island area. Brad said that he is still has some choice open dates for winter cod charters, which cost $200 for the first ten men and $15 for each additional angler. These prices include all bait and tackle.

Capt. Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** had 17 cod on Sunday along with a couple of blackfish and small pollack for 6 men fishing the Block Island area. Dick said that the commercial fisherman using long lines have been catching very good. The **Triton II** will be sailing for cod all winter and still has some choice charter dates available.

CAPTREE

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that the boat has been taking 20 to 30 cod a day for small crowds due to the nasty weather during the week and on Saturday. Average cod has been running between 15 and 25 pounds with the pool fish going 30 to 3 and the average per man is usually abou 1 fish unless the boat is crowded. Plenty of whiting inshore, but the best cod catches are being taken in 108 feet o water south of the inlet pretty far out George said that although the boat wil not be sailing Christmas Day, the **Captain Scotty** will be sailing on New Year's Day.

Captain Bill Joseph of the **Captain**

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HUDSON PARK, NEW ROCHELLE

Joseph Fleet was happy to tell us that the codfishing improved this week considerably south and southwest of Fire Island Inlet in 110 to 120 feet of water. The fish are now closer to the bottom and starting to take the bait better. On Saturday the pool was copped by 36 lb. cod.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charterboat **Lady Ann** reported that the codfishing picked up in mid week with a few catches of 40 to 60 fish but petered out on the weekend, although in general the fishing has been better than it was. On Saturday the boat was home early due to 40 mph winds and had only a couple of cod. On Sunday a dozen cod were taken along with some whiting, and Willy Willis of the Bergen City anglers took the pool with a 28 lb. cod. Neil said that 9 out of 10 cod being taken fall in the 15 to 25 lb. class. The fishing trend is showing a definite improvement, and one dragger had 50 boxes on Sunday so there are plenty of fish in the area. Best action has been in two areas, west/southwest of the NB Buoy in 100 feet of water, and east/southeast of the buoy in 110 feet of water. The **Lady Ann** is making two special offshore trips on December 26th and January 22nd. Neil said that the special trip on the day after Christmas should be very good, because the boat is sailing 4 A.M. and will catch the last couple of hours of the yule tide.

MASSAPEQUA

Joel at **Massapequa Tackle and Sports** tells us that flounders are being caught in Massapequa Cove and off Alhambra Beach. Bloodworms are the bait and you must either chum heavily or stir up the bottom with a sash weight, as the fish are laying in the mud. Whiting are 2 miles off the beach. The cod being taken are in 110 to 130 feet of water, nothing closer.

AMITYVILLE

A private boater weighed in a 23 pound cod at **George Combs Bait and Tackle** on Sunday, says Marie Combs.

BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supplies** tells us that right now flounder are being taken in Swift Creek for hardy souls on clam baits and lots of chum.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

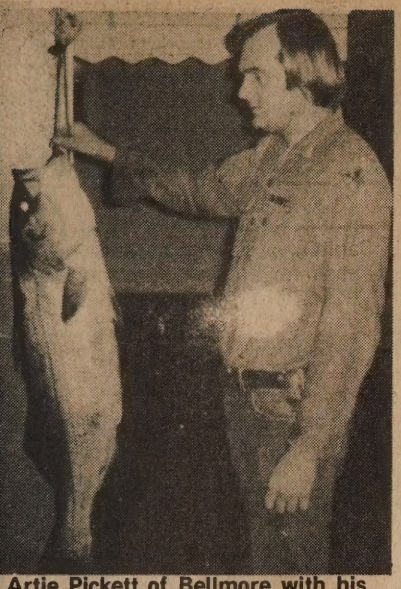
Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** reports fantastic whiting fishing from 30 to 50 fish per man both Saturday and Sunday, with fish up to 3 pounds. This is all just a short ride from the jetty also.

The **Captain Al** reports that his catches of cod were very good during the week as far as this season goes. However, Al says that the weekend was somewhat of a let down for what reason only the cod fish know. However, fares were bailed out when the boat stopped off on the way back and loaded up on whiting. Sunday Al had about 9 cod on the boat. His Friday and Saturday night whiting trips are producing bags of fish per man.

Captain Richie on the **Starstream I** continues to catch loads of whiting but is now changing over to cod. Richie says that the present cod action is as good as it's going to get for the season so he is going to give his customers what they seem to want, which is active pursuit of big codfish. Richie says almost all of his customers are asking for cod, and he figures that switching over now will give them their best shot.

The **Blue Fin II** had 20 cod on Wednesday fishing south/southeast of Cholera. High hook and pool winner was Bill Barbeforde of Memphis Tenn. with fish including a 35 pound cod. Ed Keneski of the Freeport Tuna Club had cod up to 35 pounds also, but was not in the pool. Some macks were taken and fish fell for mackerel strips. On Friday 12 cod up to 35 pounds came up for th

Torgrim Eikenes with this 22 lb. pool winning cod taken on the Blue Fin II of Freeport. Tor had 3 cod besides this one.



Artie Pickett of Bellmore with his 51 lb. 4 oz. bass taken on an eel on October 3rd at Cedar Beach. Subscriber Club Photo.

aten Island Fire Department. Sunday's p saw approximately 15 good sized cod cked, all fish between 13 and 22 unds. The pool fish was caught by rgrim Eikenes of Huntington along th 3 other fish. High hook was angler ll Pizetsky of E. Northport with 5 cod.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Bill of the **Gennie Mae** tells us at he had 14 cod on the boat on Sunday to 25 pounds. There were a few 4 to 5 unders and the rest somewhere between.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Chief, the bay's 10 A.M. boat, ports very good whiting fishing on nday with 20 to 40 fish per man, hing northeast of Ambrose. Fish were xed sizes and Captain Wreggie says ey should be around for the rest of the nter, that ice and heavy snow are the ly things that put these little beasts wn.

Captain Tony of the **Big mohawk II** lls us that Saturday's trip was a bit of a mb, but on Sunday his fares decked 7 edium sized cod, fishing a little more the west.

Captain Larry Krim of the **Eagle** ports continuing super whiting fishing ound Ambrose on both his day and ght whiting trips, with fish up to 3 unds. Larry says nights are a shade tter but both day and night trips are oducing bags of fish.

Captain Huck of the **Helen H** tells us e whiting fishing continues excellent ng with a few ling being taken, fish 1 3 pounds with catches of from 50 to 0 per man.

Captain Butch on the **New Zephyr** continues a leap job on the whiting and ling between the channels and the tower to the tune of 80 to 90 fish per man. The **Zephyr** will not be sailing Christmas Day.

Captain Nick on the **Blue Sea III** says the whiting and ling are still great and close by, fishing between the channels and the tower. Some mackerel are also being taken when the whiting rigs are reeled up. Fish are running from ¾ to 4 pounds and people are taking sacks full. On Wednesday of this week, Nick will be taking a load of Sheepshead Bay Captains out on a busman's holiday where they will try for cod. Nick will keep us posted on the results.

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

SELDEN

Ken Freeman at the **Angler's Den** said the power plant is starting to produce some bass. Tom Kara weighed in a 12 pound 10 ounce fish taken on a Tri-Fin Whiptail. Tom said he broke off some bigger fish on the light tackle he was using. The fish Tom caught was very clean; it didn't have the dingy yellow look so often seen on winter-over bass. Best time at the power plant seems to be outgoing water at dusk.

Ken has heard rumors of some codfish taken around 11B by commercial trot-liners but added he hasn't seen any fish. There's probably some whiting in the same spot but the weather has been so cold few fellows are out trying.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said fellows are taking bass at the power plant. Most of the action has been in the

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RESOLUTIONS
(Continued from page 10.)

can be found in LIF Issue #11, April 1, 1976. If you haven't got this, by all means be sure to send for a copy. It may well be the best fifty cent investment of your fishing career.

Resolution number nine: Resolve that by this time next year you will be well on your way to becoming a master fisherman. Set your sights on this goal and with the help of the other eight resolutions, you will attain that title. Of that there can be no question. It is up to you.

So, there you have it. A listing of nine resolutions which I hope will not only take you out of the doldrums of winter, but at the same time, will help to improve your fishing in the coming year. Your golden opportunity is at hand. Take advantage of it. You won't be sorry. Guaranteed.

daytime simply because it's warmer then. Tri-Fin Whiptails in the ½ to ¾ oz. size or small white bucktails are enticing the schoolies with the biggest reported going 6 pounds.

Some of the guys that tried their luck last week got 4-5 fish for their efforts.

There's also some flounders in the hot water. They're taking sandworms fished on the bottom. Don't expect that many fish though; flounder fishermen are taking a few, repeat just a few, fish.

NEW ROCHELLE

Capt. Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VI** said the whiting fishing is still worthwhile. On Saturday's trip, people caught fish even though Pete was forced to anchor. Usually anchoring up greatly reduces your chances at whiting. Inspite of that some fares had 70 to 80 fish to show for their efforts.

Pete told me he's watching the codfishing situation closely. Last week there was some upswing in cod activity off Jones Inlet. Pete is thinking, just thinking mind you, about a special cod trip if the situation warrants. Watch this column for more details.

CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in The Long Island Fisherman, our new policy is to mail into us the ad exactly as you wish it to read accompanied by a check in the amount of $4.50 (a minimum or for 30 words) and $.15 per additional word. Extended run discounts: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; 50 times, 15%; Ask about our photo classified. Effective April 29th, 1976. Mail to L.I.F., P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.

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New 11½ foot surf rod, 1165 Blank Crack 300 reel with 17 lb. Stren Line. $60. Call Tom after 6 P.M. at (516) PE 1-6511.

CHRISTMAS FISH SOUP
(Continued from page 7.)

2 containers (12 ounces each) medium sized oysters
½ cup ripe olives (or green pepper cut into small pieces.)
1 tablespoon instant minced onion (or ¼ cup finely chopped raw onion.)
½ teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon ground pepper
1/8 teaspoon powdered garlic (or 1 finely chopped clove of garlic.)
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
½ cup oleo or butter
¾ cup sifted all-purpose flour
2 or 3 tablespoons cracker crumbs

Cook oysters in own juice for several minutes or until edges curl. Cut olives into medium sized pieces and set aside. Remove oysters with slotted spoon; set aside. Measure oyster liquid (there should be 1½ cups; if not, add chicken broth or water to make up the difference.) To oyster liquid, add onion, salt, paprika, pepper, garlic, Worcestershire sauce, and lemon juice. In separate pan, melt margarine and stir in flour; cook over medium heat stirring constantly and vigorously. (Mixture will look like a paste at first but will break down and thin out). Cook until mixture turns a golden brown, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and slowly stir oyster liquid mixture into browned mixture. Carefully fold in oysters and olives (or green pepper). Turn into a 1½ quart casserole. Top with crumbs. Bake in hot oven, 400 degrees F for 30 minutes. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR to all you wonderful people!

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TACKLE REPORT

(Continued from page 6.)

contact the Worth Company, P.O. Box 88, Stevens Points, Wis. 54481.

Mighty-Mite II—

For those of us who motor around in small craft—jon boats and the like—a brand new Mighty-Mite II outboard has been developed. Though officially rated as a trolling motor, this small package of 1.7 h.p. can adequately maneuver a varied assortment of car-toppers. It comes with a standard or long shaft and weighs about 17.5 pounds. The motor is ideal for small water fishing. For further information contact Ter-Mar, Inc., P.O. Box 998, Lehigh Acres, Fla. 33936.

Nu-Inventions Company—

Nu-Inventions has developed two new products that will be of interest to all fishermen. One is billed as a Super Fish Scaler, and is said to easily scale all types and sizes of scaled fish. The scaler features a design that is: rustproof, safe, sanitary, convenient and quick.

Another hot off the presses product is a One Second Hook Remover. The device is constructed of a high impact polymer-stainless steel and is spring loaded. It is billed by Nu-Inventions as being the world's fastest, safest and easiest to use.

For additional information regarding both of these products contact Nu-Inventions, Box 1475, Pearland, Texas 77581.

Electric Feather—

This is a real unique one. It is a two man low draft craft powered completely by a built-in electric system. It's a great type boat for getting into those hard to reach places, especially those locations where the really big ones lay. The "Feather" is 12 feet long and is constructed of hand laid fiberglass. The heavy-duty trolling motor can be operated by any standard 12 volt battery which gives up to 12 hours running time. The boat is a real lightweight; 67 pounds light. The lightness, combined with the variable speed motor, allows for a reported maximum speed of 10 mph. If you are interested, write the Fin and Feather Mfg Co., Box 179, Marshall, Texas, 75670.

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	9:12	9:41	10:02	10:28	9:54	10:29	10:40	11:17	12:43	12:52	12:21	12:38	9:06	9:31	12/23
FRI.	10:02	10:32	10:51	11:20	10:48	11:25	11:31	—	1:32	1:43	1:10	1:29	9:56	10:22	12/24
SAT.	10:50	11:22	11:42	—	11:38	—	12:11	12:26	2:22	2:34	1:59	2:19	10:46	11:12	12/25
SUN.	11:39	—	12:14	12:33	12:15	12:29	1:06	1:21	3:15	3:29	2:49	3:10	11:35	—	12/26
MON.	12:12	12:30	1:10	1:28	1:06	1:17	2:02	2:18	4:14	4:34	3:42	4:03	12:06	12:29	12/27
TUE.	1:03	1:19	2:09	2:23	1:54	2:06	3:01	3:18	5:12	5:44	4:34	5:00	1:03	1:23	12/28
WED.	1:53	2:12	3:05	3:19	2:45	2:59	3:57	4:18	6:12	6:48	5:29	5:57	1:57	2:17	12/29
THUR.	2:47	3:09	4:01	4:16	3:38	3:56	4:50	5:14	7:12	7:44	6:24	6:53	2:51	3:12	12/30

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 [illegible]
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/6	7:13	4:29
12/11	7:18	4:28
12/16	7:22	4:29
12/21	7:25	4:31
12/26	7:27	4:34

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/21	12/28	12/6	12/14

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	6:05	**12:25**	6:35	**12:55**
FRI.	7:10	**1:25**	7:35	**1:50**
SAT.	8:05	**2:20**	8:30	**2:45**
SUN.	9:00	**3:10**	9:20	**3:35**
MON.	9:50	**4:00**	10:10	**4:25**
TUES.	10:40	**4:50**	11:00	**5:10**
WED.	11:25	**5:30**	11:40	**5:50**
THURS.	—	**6:10**	12:05	**6:30**

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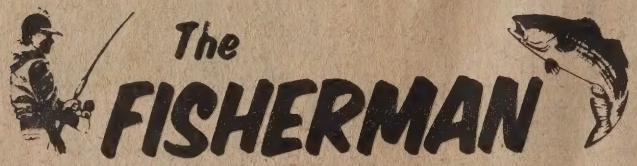

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